GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3280
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
AGRICULTURAL ORNITHOLOGY
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any specific programme/project for the development of Agricultural Ornithology aimed at controlling insects and pests affecting agricultural crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details regarding the breeding of insectivorous birds in the country;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the implementation of such projects during the last three years and the current year, Statewise;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any specific proposal in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research launched an All India Coordinated Research Project (AINP) on Agricultural Ornithology in 1982 in view of the importance of birds in agricultural ecosystem.

(b): The project involves multi-location work on birds and development of protection technologies in different agro-climatic regions of the country.

India has 1,225 species of birds. In relation to agriculture, 315 species of birds have been identified out of which 63 species are identified as depredatory birds causing crop losses at various crop stages and the remaining 252 species are considered as insectivorous and help in controlling the various crop pests. Artificial nest boxes have been developed to facilitate breeding and are provided in and around the agricultural crop fields to increase the population of important insectivorous birds. The project has achieved successful breeding of 16 key bird species of agricultural importance.

(c): The details of the budgetary allocation provided under AINP-Agricultural Ornithology during the last three years and the current year, State-wise are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Andhra Pradesh	34.41	38.97	20.20	28.74	122.32
Punjab	15.15	15.53	14.23	15.56	60.47
Gujarat	16.66	13.85	14.44	16.99	61.94
Kerala	10.45	9.26	6.80	8.59	35.10

(d): No Sir.

(e): Does not arise.